

CHARMOUTH SCHOOL GOVERNOR PROFILES

Sylvie Lord – Chair of Governors Co-Opted Governor

I moved to Bridport with my partner in August 2018 from North Dorset. I was a secondary school teacher for 15 years before joining Dorset Council as an Education Adviser where I still work on a part time basis. I have two children in their 20s - a daughter who now lives with us and a son who has just moved to Bridport to work at the hospital. I also have three adult stepdaughters who visit regularly.

In the spring of 2019, I joined this Governing Board and took over as Chair at the beginning of 2020 when the previous Chair stepped down. Over the years I have been a Staff Governor at a school in West London and a Parent Governor at my children's primary school. However, this is the first time I have taken on a governor role without already having a personal interest in the school and I think I am lucky to have found such a lovely school to work with. I hope that you would agree that some positive changes are taking place and I am committed to supporting the school in moving forward. During my first year as a governor it has been wonderful to see the successful start of the new nursery and the introduction of the Dimensions curriculum.

As well as governor work, I like to spend my spare time exploring the area I live in as there are so many beautiful places to walk too with our dog. I also make good use of the superb Bridport Leisure centre and have recently got involved with a local drama group.

We are always keen to welcome new governors and want to ensure that the governing body is made up of people from all walks of life. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or the Head Teacher if you want to know more.



Tamsin Rowe - Joint Vice Chair Co-Opted Governor & Curriculum Link Governor

I have 16 years of experience in Primary Education in teaching, leadership and consultancy roles. This background gives me a strong understanding of curriculum and school data and I have knowledge of a variety of approaches to ensure effective school improvement.

I now teach secondary aged students at Key Stage 3 and at A Level. Therefore I understand the experiences primary-aged children need to be prepared to successfully access the next part of their school careers.

I became a governor at Charmouth in 2018 after my youngest child finished in Year 6 at the school. I have appreciated maintaining these ties with primary education, and the chance to contribute to the community.



Colin Williams – Joint Vice Chair Parent Governor & Finance Link Governor

I moved to Charmouth with my wife and two children in 2017 as my wife is from Dorset. We wanted to give our children a more active and outdoors lifestyle. I own my own business and felt I could draw upon this experience to add to the governing board.

As a parent governor I can see things from both sides of the fence and am able to give constructive feedback.

I enjoy being part of a team that is helping the school fulfill its potential.

When not working, I enjoy going out for meals and riding my motorbike!





Jane O'Sullivan
Co-Opted Governor & Safeguarding & Attendance Link Governor

My career began as a Management Trainee with M&S in stores in London as an Office Manager, before taking up the role of Finance & Admin Manager in a secondary school in Camden Town. After several years I made a complete career change; I worked 1:1 for two years with a child who had complex learning needs before moving to become a Learning Mentor in a London primary school, in an area of significant deprivation, before becoming the school's Pastoral Manager. This was the most challenging and rewarding time of my career: alongside my day-to-day role I studied part time and achieved a First Class Honours degree in my late 40s. For 17 years I built and developed strong relationships with children and their families, being the first point of access in the school.

I have 29 year old twins, my daughter is currently working in New Zealand and my son is studying for a Doctorate in London.

I have recently taken early retirement to spend more time with my husband and pursue my own interests. However, education remains one of my passions. I believe all children should have every opportunity to reach their full potential, and school should be a safe and fun place to learn. With significant experience in education, and having been a school Governor over 20 years as a parent, member of staff and Associate, I wanted to put this to good use within the Charmouth Community. As Safeguarding & Attendance Link Governor, I work closely with the Head and Governors to ensure we meet the needs of our children and staff.



Caroline Dare
Staff Governor

I have wanted to teach for as long as I can remember: I always wanted to make a difference and seeing a child come to realise they can do something they thought they couldn't do or the awe and wonder as they learn something new.

I have been at Charmouth since 2013 and feel privileged to also now be making a difference as a staff governor. I began my career in Early Years and still love being amongst those years groups. Over the years, I have diversified my experience and have spent most of my teaching career in Key Stage Two. Seeing older pupils through their transition to secondary school is an incredibly emotional and rewarding experience.

I am now SENCo, an equally rewarding role, as well as deputy safeguarding officer and a member of the senior leadership team. It is an incredibly exciting time for Charmouth, as we continue to grow our learning opportunities and experiences and enable our staff, parents and pupils to become the best they can be.



Lynne Wheatley
Co-Opted Governor & Inclusion Link Governor

As a career Education professional I am passionate about school improvement and supporting schools to provide all children, regardless of their location or circumstances with the knowledge, skills, ambition and self-belief to achieve more than they ever thought possible.

I am fortunate to have 40 years professional experience of both mainstream and Special school teaching and leadership as a teacher, Deputy Head and Head Teacher. In the last 8 years in my work with a national charity, I have delivered bespoke leadership coaching and training for schools in the South West as the Achievement for All Regional Director. In 2012 I was the key note speaker for the South West National Governors Association on SEN provision.

Now appointed to the important and pivotal role of school governor I am keen to find out about the day to day experience of the school from all perspectives.

I aspire to be an active and proactive governor in supporting the Head teacher, parents and the wider teaching team in addressing their challenges, as well as someone who is able to take the initiative and ask the right questions and hopefully provide solutions for Governance of the School.

It is a privilege to serve this school community



Rachel Coney

Co-Opted Governor & TBA Link Governor

I have had a varied career as a Senior leader, Chief Executive and Management Consultant in the arts, health and charity sectors and have built up a wealth of experience in strategic planning, organisational development and governance. I moved to the area in 2018, and since then have established a small holiday business and done some mentoring for Chief Executives in local voluntary organisations. At the beginning of 2020 I decided to look for a local organisation that might be able to make good use of my skills in a Trustee or other voluntary governance role, and was delighted to be invited to apply to become a Co-opted Governor at Charmouth Primary School. My two children are now in their twenties, so it's been a long time since I was involved in primary education, but I am excited to be learning about a whole new sector, and am looking forward to making a positive contribution to the life of the school and its community.

I was appointed to the Board in July 2020



Dave Barton

Previous Co-Opted Governor, Chair, Vice-Chair & H&S & Premises Governor

David was initially a co-opted governor whose term of office ended in January 2020 but he agreed to stay on as an associate member to July 2020.

Whilst serving as a governor, he carried out the role of H&S & Premises governor and was a member of the Finance committee. In January 2018 he took on the role of Vice Chair, before becoming Acting Chair and then elected as Chair of Governors in September 2019.

His career has involved management and senior management positions within the Printing industry specialising in Corporate Finance. In 2001 he retrained within the Construction Industry and has since run his own business.

David and his family initially lived in Kent but in 2007 they emigrated to The Charente in South West France. In 2015 they returned to England to live on the Dorset / Devon borders.

David joined as a governor to assist the school by offering his expertise in financial budgeting and building maintenance. His aim as a governor was to assist in the schools provision of a safe environment and the best quality of education to all children at Charmouth, which all three of his children have attended.

David's reflections on his time as a governor are that although the school has been through some challenging times and his role has sometimes been taxing he has always felt that the role



Andy Bateman

Previous Co-Opted Governor, Vice Chair & Finance Link Governor

Andy Bateman was a co-opted governor whose term of office ended in May 2019 but stayed on one more year; he has now stepped down. Whilst being a Governor, he carried out the role of Vice Chair, Chair of the Resource Committee and more recently link Governor for finance.

His background and career experience, which involved working in the Rail Industry as a Programme Manager managing a portfolio of major re-signalling projects and as a Project Manager/Engineer on projects in the power industry, was proven to be useful in being a Governor at the school, particularly in managing budgets, health & safety, project strategies and personnel.

The main reason Andy joined as a Governor was to help the school progress by using his skills and expertise, with the focus always to provide the best quality of education to children at Charmouth school.

Andy reflects on his time as Governor saying "there have been some challenging times but it's been rewarding to see the school is clearly now employing strategies that will improve the school outcomes with a much improved financial standing".